WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image decoding apparatus for decoding image data including plural image sequences, said apparatus comprising:

a memory having plural memory regions corresponding to the respective image sequences, and being operable to hold decoding data to be used when the image data of the respective image sequences are decoded;

a memory region selection unit operable to select one of the memory regions in the memory, said memory region corresponding to a target image sequence to be decoded, on the basis of image identifying information which indicates the target image sequence;

a decoder having a register operable to hold the decoding data of the target image sequence, and perform decoding on the image data of the target image sequence on the basis of the decoding data stored in the register; and

a decoding data transfer unit operable to transfer the decoding data of the target image sequence between the memory region selected by the memory region selection unit and the register in the decoder.

2. An image decoding apparatus for decoding image data including plural image sequences, said apparatus comprising:

a memory having plural individual memory regions corresponding to the respective image sequences, and being

operable to hold decoding data to be used when the image data of the respective image sequences are decoded, and a temporary memory region for temporarily holding decoding data of a specific image sequence;

a memory region selection unit operable to select one of the individual memory regions in the memory, said memory region corresponding to a target image sequence to be decoded, on the basis of image identifying information which indicates the target image sequence;

a decoding data transfer unit operable to transfer the decoding data of the target image sequence, between the individual memory region selected by the memory region selection unit and the temporary memory region; and

a decoder operable to perform decoding on the image data of the target image sequence on the basis of the decoding data stored in the temporary memory region.

3.   An image decoding apparatus for decoding image data including plural image sequences, said apparatus comprising:

a memory having plural memory regions corresponding to the respective image sequences, and being operable to hold decoding data including plural parameters to be used when the image data of the respective image sequences are decoded;

a parameter storage position decision unit operable to decide storage positions of parameters in a memory region

corresponding to a target image sequence to be decoded, said parameters being required when the target image sequence is decoded, and said decision being carried out on the basis of image identifying information which indicates the target image sequence; and

a decoder operable to perform decoding on the target image sequence, on the basis of the parameters stored in the parameter storage positions which are decided by the parameter storage position decision unit.

4. An image decoding method for performing decoding on image data comprising plural image sequences, on the basis of decoding data of the respective image sequences, said method comprising:

transferring decoding data corresponding to a target image sequence to be decoded, among the decoding data corresponding to the respective image sequences, between a memory for holding the decoding data of the respective image sequences and a temporary storage for temporarily holding decoding data of a specific image sequence; and

decoding the image data corresponding to the target image sequence, with reference to the decoding data stored in the temporary storage.

5. An image decoding method for decoding image data including plural image sequences, said method comprising:

selecting decoding data of a target image sequence to be decoded, from decoding data including plural parameter data of the respective image sequences, said decoding data being stored in a memory and to be used when the image data of the respective image sequences are decoded;

deciding storage positions, in the memory, of parameter data required for decoding, among the plural parameter data constituting the selected decoding data; and

decoding the image data corresponding to the target image sequence, on the basis of the parameter data stored in the decided storage positions.

6. A program storage medium containing a program for making a computer perform data processing on image data including plural image sequences, on the basis of decoding data of the respective image sequences,

said program storage medium containing a data processing program which makes the computer perform the following processes:

a decoding data transfer process of transferring decoding data of a target image sequence to be decoded, among the decoding data of the respective image sequences, between a memory for holding the decoding data of the respective image sequences and a temporary storage for temporarily holding decoding data of a specific image sequence; and

a decoding process of decoding the image data corresponding

to the target image sequence, with reference to the decoding data stored in the temporary storage.

7.   A program storage medium containing a program for making a computer perform data processing on image data including plural image sequences,

said program storage medium containing a data processing program which makes the computer perform the following processes:

a decoding data selection process of selecting decoding data of a target image sequence to be decoded, from decoding data including plural parameter data corresponding to the respective image sequences, said decoding data being stored in a memory and to be used when the image data of the respective image sequences are decoded;

a parameter storage position decision process of deciding storage positions, in the memory, of parameter data required for decoding, among the plural parameter data constituting the selected decoding data; and

a decoding process of decoding the image data corresponding to the target image sequence, on the basis of the parameter data stored in the storage positions which are decided in the parameter storage position decision step.